

Notes on the Slave Trade, &c.

IT may not be necessary to repeat what has been so fully declared in several modern publications, of the inhumanity of slavery with every right of man, and every feeling of humanity, and every tenet of Christianity; nor to point out the inconsistency with the welfare, the happiness, the spirituality of every country, in proportion as it prevails; what grievous inflictions it inflicts on the poor Negro; but more especially what a train of fatal vice it generates in their lordly oppressors and in their wretched offspring. Nevertheless for those who have not met with, or fully examined these former publications, and in particular some who are still active in the defense of slavery, may be induced to consider the subject, and become more wise, the following substance of an address or exposition, written by a sensible Author, to the several ranks of persons most immediately concerned in the trade, is now republished.

"And, first, to the capitals engaged in this trade. Most of you know something of Guinea, perhaps now by name only; but of it is become a dreary, unprofitable, dead city; the inhabitants being all carried away, so that there is nothing on the ground; but you know of its being a very populous, how fruitful, in

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about a few years ago. You know the people were not stupid, not wanting in sense, considering the few means of improvement they enjoyed. Neither did you find them savage, treacherous, or unkind to strangers. On the contrary they were in most parts a simple and ingenuous people; kind and hospitable, and generally just in their dealings. Such are the men whom you hire their own slaves from, to tear away from this lovely country; part by stealth, part by force, part by seduction in those wars which you raise and support on purpose. You have seen them torn away, children from their parents, parents from their children: Husbands from their wives, wives from their beloved husbands; brethren and sisters from each other. You have dragged them who had never done you any wrong, perhaps in chains, from their native shore. You have forced them into your ships, like an herd of swine, them

The following Relation is inserted at the request of the author.

"I may contribute all in my power towards the happiness of mankind, by inspiring any of its individuals with a friendly abhorrence for that detestable vice, slavery. As it is our Fellow Creatures, and the world over, we are to blame for my neglect of duty as a Master in that wicked traffic, I offer the following relation, some few occurrences which have struck me with alarm. That being struck with a sad and distressing scene, they may be induced to reflect upon their present, which is the noblest and most enviable of man."

About

them who had souls immortal as your own. You have stowed them together so close as ever they could lie, without any regard either to decency or convenience——And when many of them had been poisoned by foul air, or had sunk under various hardships, you have seen their remains devoured in the deep, till the sea should give up his dead. You have carried the survivors into the vilest slavery, never to end but with life: such slavery as is not found among the Turks at Algiers, no, nor among the heathens in America.

May

About the Year 1749: I sailed from Liverpool to the coast of Guinea; sometime after our arrival, I was ordered to go up the country a considerable distance, upon having notice from one of the Negro Kings, that he had a parcel of Slaves to dispose of. I received my instructions and went, carrying with me an account of such goods we had on board, to exchange for the Slaves we intended to purchase; upon being introduced, I presented him with a small case of Spices, a Gun, and some trinkets, which having exchanged, and understood by an interpreter what goods we wanted, the next day was appointed for viewing the Slaves; we found about two hundred confined in one place. But how shall I relate the affecting sight? I then beheld, the silent sorrow which appeared in the countenance of the afflicted mother, and the painful anxiety of the tender mother, expecting to be forever separated from their tender offspring; the distressed mother clasping her hands in preluge of her future wretchedness, and the general cry of the slaves, who apprehension of the perpetual torture which they were doomed. I purchased eleven, and sent six to the
treaty (directly ton) we soon purchased our cargo.

May I speak plainly to you? I must. Love constrains me: Love to you, as well, as those you are concerned with. Is there a God? You know there is. Is he a just God? Then there must be a state of retribution: A state where the just God will reward every man according to his work. Then what reward will be nearer to you. O think before you drop into eternity. Think how, "He shall have judgment without mercy, that sheweth no mercy." Are you a man? Then you should have a human heart. But have you indeed? What is your heart made of?

fitting of one hundred and seventy slaves, whom thou may'st reader judge to thy view, as they were shackled two and two together, pent up within the narrow confines of the slave-boat, with its sombre and dismal scenes of sickness, thums and contempt; deprived of every food and sustenance except a great morsel allotted to a state of desperation. We had our baptismal wash at Sea, before the fatal consequence of last night's skirmish. They formed a dozen or more rows of the black slaves, liberty, by calling and bidding the slaves stand on their feet, and the command of the master, "Stand up, slaves, and we may know if you do have some respect to your master's directions," was followed by the two thumbs over the broadside of each slave, who received a number of lashes on the back, and then the master said, "Stand up, slaves, and we may know if you do have some respect to your master's directions." The command was repeated, and the master, keeping the miserable slaves in rank, from the bowlders to the waist, and the master was a such who, from too long a time past, had lost all refinement of thought and deal with men as unfeeling, cold, and unmerciful, till the last word had come from the Master.

Is there no such principle as compunction there? Do you never feel another's pain? Have you no sympathy? No sense of human woe? No pity for the miserable? When you saw the flowing eyes, the heaving breast, or the bleeding sides and tortured limbs of your fellow-creatures. Was you a stone or a brute? Did you look upon them with the eyes of a tiger? When you ~~threw~~ cast the agonizing creatures down in the fire, or when you threw their poor mangled remains into the sea, had you no remorse? Did not one tear drop from your eye, and a sigh escape from your breast? Do you feel no relenting now? If you do not, you must go on, till the measure of your iniquity is full. Then will the great God deal with you, as you have dealt with them, and require all their blood at your hands. And on that day it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for you; But if none bear noes relact, though in a small degree, know it is a call from the God of love, and today, if you hear his voice, hardness not your heart—today refuse not God being your helper to assist thee for thy life—Regard not sinners; All that a man hath will he give for his life. What then you lose, lose not your Soul, nothing can countervail that loss. Immediately quit the horrid trade: At all events be an honest man.

This equally concerns every master who is engaged in the Slave-trade. In

you that induce the African villain to sell his countrymen; and in order thereto, to steal, rob, murder men, women and children without number: By enabling the English villain to pay him for so doing; whom you overpay for his execrable labour. It is your money, that is the spring of all, that impowers him to go on, so that whatever he or the African does in this matter, is all your act and deed. And is your conscience quite reconciled to this? Does it never reproach you at all? Has gold entirely blinded your eyes and stupified your heart? Can you see, can you feel no harm therein? Is it doing as you would be done to! Make the case your own.

"Master! (said a Slave at Liverpool to the
"merchant that owned him) what if some
"of my countrymen were to come here,
"and take away my mistress, and master
"Tommy and master Billy, and carry them
"into our country and make them slaves,
"how would you like it?" His answer was
worthy of a man: "I will never buy a slave
more while I live." O let his resolution
be yours! Have no more any part in this
detestable business. Instantly leave it to
those unfeeling wretches, vvvvv vvvv vvvv
"humanity and compassion."

And this equally concerns every Person who has an estate in our American plantations: Yea all Slave-holders of whatever rank and degree; seeing men buyers are exactly on a level with menstealers. Indeed you say, "I pay honestly for my goods; and I am not

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"not concerned to know how they are come by." Nay, but you are: You are deeply concerned, to know that they are not stolen: Otherwise you are partaker with a thief, and are not a jot honester than him. But you know they are not honestly come by: You know they are procured by means nothing near so innocent as picking of pockets, house breaking, or robbery upon the highway. You know they are procured by a deliberate series of more complicated villainy, (of fraud, robbery and murder,) than was ever practised either by Mahometans or Pagans; in particular by murders of all kinds; by the blood of the innocent poured upon the ground like water. Now it is your money that pays the merchant, and thro' him the captain and African butchers. You therefore are guilty: Yea, principally guilty, of all these frauds, robberies, and murders. You are the spring that puts all the rest in motion; they would not stir a step without you.—Therefore the blood of all these wretches, who die before their time, whether in their country or else where, lies upon your head. The blood of thy brother. (for whether thou wilt believe it or no, such he is in the sight of him that made him) crieth against thee from the earth, from the ship, and from the waters. O! what ever it cost, put a stop to its cry, before it be too late. Instantly, at any price, were it the half of thy goods, deliver thyself from blood guiltiness! Thy hands, thy bed,

thy

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thy furniture, thy house, thy land, are at present stained with blood. Surely it is enough; accumulate no more guilt: Spill no more the blood of the innocent! Do not hire another to shed blood! Do not pay him for doing it! Whether thou art a christian or no, shew thyself a man; be not more savage than a lion or a bear.

Perhaps thou wilt say, "I do not buy any negroes: I only use those left me by my father." But is it enough to satisfy your own conscience! Had your father, have you, has any man living, a right to use another as a slave? It cannot be, even setting revelation aside. It cannot be, that either war, or contract, can give any man, such a property in another as he has in his sheep and oxen: Much less is it possible, that any child of man, should ever be born a slave. Liberty is the right of every human creature, as soon as he breathes the vital air. And no human law can deprive him of that right, which he derives from the law of nature. If therefore you have any regard to justice, (to say nothing of mercy,) of the revealed law of God,) render unto all their due. Give liberty to whom liberty is due, that is to every child of man, to every partaker of human nature. Let none serve you but by his own act and deed, by his own voluntary choice. Away with whips, chains and all compulsion. Be gentle towards all men. And see that you invariably do unto every one, as you would he should do unto you.